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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME IV. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Programme 24. Statistics

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* The present document contains programme 24 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

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PROGRAMME 24. STATISTICS

A. Programme

1. General orientation

24.1 The mandate for this programme was established by the Economic and Social Council at its first and second sessions in 1946. In that year, the Council established a Statistical Commission to provide expert advice on statistical matters and to assist it: "(a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability; (b) In the co-ordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies; (c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat; (d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, interpretation and dissemination of statistical information; (e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally". At the same time, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to take into account the following recommendations of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the organization and mandate of the statistical work of the Secretariat: "... (a) Organization of a central statistical unit in the Secretariat of the United Nations; (b) Collection, analysis and evaluation of statistics from Member Governments, specialized agencies, and other sources; (c) Publication of statistics; (d) Co-ordination of statistical activities of specialized agencies; (e) Promotion of development and improvement of statistics in general; (f) Maintenance of an international centre for statistics; and (g) Maintenance of close contact and co-ordination with national Governments on programmes of statistical research, submission of statistical data, analysis and publication...".

24.2 At its fiftieth session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971, on co-ordination of work in the field of statistics, reaffirmed, inter alia, its resolutions 8 (I) of 16 February 1946 and 8 (II) of 21 June 1946 on the establishment of the Statistical Commission and its terms of reference, and stated that the primary objective of the statistical programme was "the achievement of an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising economic and social progress, particularly in the context of the policy measures and objectives of the United Nations Development Decade, taking into account the needs of the developing countries".

24.3 Further legislative mandates arising from the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, as well as from a variety of world conferences, have reaffirmed the overall scope of activity and addressed specific aspects of the programme. Those legislative mandates have also broadened the scope of activity to give specific mention to statistical work on such issues as environment, the situation of women, human settlements, special population groups - children, youth, the aging and disabled persons - and crime and criminal justice.

24.4 The overall goal of the programme is to increase the availability and use of relevant, timely and reliable statistics, for national and international planning and action. In pursuit of this continuing and evolving goal, the statistics programme contributes to the development, expansion, improvement and maintenance of cost-effective statistical capabilities through the formulation and the improvement of sound statistical methodologies for use by Member States, the application of new

technologies, the collection and dissemination of statistics in numerous fields, the provision of substantive technical co-operation support and the promotion of co-ordination of international statistical work.

24.5 A major feature of the statistics programme is its integrated nature. The methodological work, which includes the development of recommendations, guidelines, classifications, manuals and technical reports, contributes both to the improvement of statistics and statistical capabilities in Member States, particularly in developing countries, and to the international comparability of statistics. The technical co-operation activities in support of developing countries are integrated into the overall functioning of the Statistical Office. Those activities draw on the regular work of the Office, for example, by using and promoting the use in countries of the methodological work of the Office, and they contribute to the development of methodologies by providing feedback on the special statistical needs and problems of the developing countries. National statistics relevant to most sectors of economic and social activity are published for most countries and areas of the world and disseminated to Governments and to a wide range of other users. By putting its own data into an international context, each country can obtain perspectives that cannot be obtained in any other way.

24.6 The statistics programme has, from its inception, served a wide range of users and its outputs had many applications; a major aim will be to use available processing, communications and dissemination technologies to serve the diverse users and purposes effectively and efficiently. Better communication with users will be required to understand more fully their needs in terms of contents and in terms of the forms in which data can best be made available. The amount and detail of statistical data available at the international level have grown rapidly. Technology for storing, processing, communicating and disseminating data is continuing to change. An appropriate blending of these technologies is needed to ensure that the required statistics are made available to a wide range of users in ways that suit the varied uses made of the statistics. Comprehensive data on economic and social structure and change are still seriously lacking in many countries. Knowledge about the reliability of available data is lacking in many fields and for many countries. There are also serious time-lags in the availability of data. All these factors need to be addressed to improve the usability and availability of data for policy and decision-making purposes at the national and international levels.

2. Overall strategy

24.7 In order to meet the above objectives, the programme, whose implementation, with the exception of subprogramme 5 (see para. 24.8), is the responsibility of the Statistical Office and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, will aim to serve the needs of users and producers of statistics in such well-established fields as national accounts and balances, international trade, industrial, energy, price and demographic statistics with the growing needs for statistics and statistical methods in such emerging fields as environment, services, disarmament and the situation of women. In a number of cases, new issues can be addressed by adapting and extending well-established methodologies. To cite two examples: work will be pursued in adapting national accounting methodologies to take into account such environmental issues as resource depletion and the cost of pollution control and abatement; existing data and classifications, along with new frameworks and methods, will be used to generate a

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broader range of statistics relating to disarmament. In both new and well-established fields, plans will have to be adjusted to respond to specific issues and topics identified in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as other global initiatives and conferences arising during the plan period. Nevertheless, it is clear that in all subprogrammes special attention will be given to work relating to statistics and indicators needed to monitor progress in the implementation of the international development strategy as well as those needed to assess the achievement of social goals in the 1990s on the basis of nationally and internationally established quantitative targets.

24.8 In the area of technical co-operation activities, carried out by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development of the Secretariat, with substantive support from the Statistical Office and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the goals of self-reliance and sustained capabilities will be fostered with special emphasis on economic statistics, including international trade and national accounts statistics, the strengthening of household survey and population and housing census capabilities, statistical data-processing capabilities, statistical training and the organization and management of national statistical services. With respect to the collection, processing and publication of statistics, particular attention will be given to building up extended time series and basic data essential for the analysis of long-term economic and social changes at the country, regional and global levels and also to providing indications of the reliability of statistical data. The technical co-operation activities in support of developing countries draw on the regular work of the Statistical Office by using and promoting the use in countries of the methodological work of the Office, and they contribute to the development of methodologies by providing feedback on the special statistical needs and problems of the developing countries.

24.9 In pursuit of its mandate, the Statistical Office provides a wide range of services and outputs to users and producers of statistics in other units of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, and other organs within the United Nations. A special relationship exists between the Statistical Office and the statistical divisions of the regional commissions. They work closely together on all aspects of their programmes in full recognition of the complementary and interdependent nature of their work. Furthermore, work on the situation of women involves close collaboration with, inter alia, the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (CSDHA), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

24.10 Co-ordination is of central importance to the statistics programme and is explicitly represented in the subprogramme structure. International statistical work is carried out by a large number of national and international organizations. Each organization has its own objectives, priorities and methods but also shares a number of common concerns. Besides routine contacts and communication, co-ordination is promoted through the Statistical Commission, the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination and the ACC Sub-committee on Statistical Activities. In addition, broader and more integrated approaches to development planning and policy formulation have been widely adopted

at both the national and international levels. This has increased the demand for greater integration of economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics to meet planning and policy needs. There has also been a consequent increased emphasis on co-ordinated and collaborative approaches. As a result, for example, work on national accounting methodology is carried out jointly with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). Non-governmental organizations such as the International Statistical Institute, the International Association of Official Statisticians, the International Association for the Study of Income and Wealth and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics will also be associated with various aspects of the programme.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

24.11 This programme consists of five subprogrammes, as follows:

Subprogramme 1: Developing statistical concepts and methods for use by Member States;

Subprogramme 2: Applying advanced technology in collecting, processing and disseminating integrated statistics;

Subprogramme 3: Collecting, compiling and disseminating international statistics;

Subprogramme 4: Co-ordinating international statistical programmes;

Subprogramme 5: Support for technical co-operation in statistics and statistical data processing (Department of Technical Co-operation for Development)

B. Subprogrammes

24.12 Subprogrammes 1, 4 and 5 are designated high priority.

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPING STATISTICAL CONCEPTS AND METHODS FOR USE BY MEMBER STATES

(a) Objectives

24.13 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 3362 (S-VII), 3409 (XXX), S-13/2, 44/76 and 44/234; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1307 (XLIV), 1564 (L), 1947 (LVIII), 2061 (LXII), 1979/5, 1987/6, 1989/3 and 1989/4; resolutions 6, 8, 22 and 39 of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women; resolutions 1 and 2 and decision 3 of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; and decisions 48/IV and 7/3 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

24.14 The objectives of this subprogramme are: to develop and disseminate sound concepts, definitions, classifications and methods of data collection, compilation

and dissemination for national and international statistics; to promote the improvement of national and international statistics, particularly their reliability, timeliness, scope, coverage and comparability; to promote the further harmonization and integration of national and international statistics, including the completion and dissemination of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) and related handbooks, to review and, if necessary, revise the provisional Central Product Classification; and to develop new or revised recommendations and reports in industry, energy, trade, demographic, social and environment statistics.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

24.15 Work on national accounts will focus on the completion and follow-up of the SNA revision process, with the final draft and the revised SNA to be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-seventh session. The revised SNA will be published and widely disseminated. The emphasis will be on promoting, through the further development of the national accounts compilation methodology based on the use of microcomputers and on further elaboration of SNA handbooks to assist national accountants in areas not covered until now. Results of national and international efforts on environmental accounting will be reviewed to determine if revised and up-dated guidelines can be provided. Cost- and time-saving strategies, such as bench-mark versus current accounting or short-cut estimation methods, will be developed to help countries improve the timely availability of national accounts statistics. Adaptations of national accounts to a variety of uses will also be further developed. The reoriented approach to work on System of National Accounts/Material Product System (SNA/MPS) links will continue with the long-term aim to integrate the two systems. Emphasis will be placed on the parallel use of the two systems as alternative forms of analysis, based on both national accounting principles. Further work will be done on harmonizing the SNA and MPS concepts of national accounting and on the application of the SNA in countries with centrally planned economies as part of the process of integrating the two systems and improving international comparability of data. In fostering linkages between the SNA and the systems and frameworks in specialized fields of statistics, work will continue on conceptual issues and on the development of handbooks and guidelines for national work on linkage.

24.16 In the area of economic classifications, work will be completed on the provisional version of the Central Product Classification and the third revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, including the development of numeric indexes for those classifications. Further reviews of classifications will be carried out and, when warranted, revisions will be initiated, particularly to take into account changes arising from the adoption of the new SNA or important new statistical needs. A review of the adequacy of the provisional version of the Central Product Classification will be undertaken, and a revised draft will be prepared if the Statistical Commission considers it necessary. As required, special-purpose classifications in selected fields will be developed. Improved harmonization with classifications developed for use by regional intergovernmental bodies, such as CMEA and the European Communities, will be promoted. Under the guidance of the Statistical Commission, the Statistical Office will continue to promote the co-ordination of work on classifications and will be the focal point for the provision of information and guidance to Member States and international organizations in the implementation of these classifications and their further development for international and national use and adaptation. Software versions of classification indexes and conversion tables

will be disseminated, drawing on national and international work in this area supplemented, if necessary, by developmental work.

24.17 Work in energy statistics will focus on any necessary refinements and further development of methodologies for general energy statistics and new and renewable sources of energy. In the area of international trade, research will focus on country practices in merchandise trade statistics and any needed revisions to international recommendations in this field. Also the development of concepts, definitions and guidelines for international trade in services will be pursued with a view to promoting nationally useful and internationally comparable data. Experience gained in countries in work on various aspects of environment statistics and from regional seminars and technical co-operation in environment statistics will provide information for further modification and revision of technical reports on concepts and methods of environment statistics and the start of further in-depth methodological work in selected areas of high priority. Drawing on work in countries and regions, international guidelines and classifications pertaining to various fields of environmental statistics will be prepared for submission to the Statistical Commission and further technical reports will be issued on various aspects of environment statistics in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other interested organizations.

24.18 In the fields of social, demographic and human settlements statistics, priority will be given to (a) providing guidance to countries on census data base development and timely dissemination and use of data, (b) studying national experience and issues emerging from the 1990 round of population and housing censuses; and (c) initiating preparations for the next Population and Housing Census Programme, including review of existing recommendations and development of additional recommendations as needed, in co-operation with, in particular, UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the regional commissions. Priority will also be given to the development of methodologies for statistics, indicators and user-oriented data bases on women and special population groups, including youth, children, elderly and disabled. Technical reports will be prepared on specialized topics as specific needs are identified, such as migration and special population groups, in response to user requests.

24.19 Where possible, the concepts and definitions established for industrial statistics will be linked to the framework of the revised SNA/MPS. Work will continue on the statistical treatment of small-scale industrial activity for inclusion in the international recommendations for the 1993 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. Revised recommendations for construction statistics will focus on national and international needs and national practices, as well as on relationships to the national accounts. In service statistics, the main emphasis will be put on (a) further developing the methodology of the quantity and price indexes for services with a view to improving constant price estimates; (b) further elaborating the concepts, definitions, classifications and data collection methods in trade-in-services statistics; (c) developing commodity and activity classifications in services; (d) elaborating comprehensive guidelines for such areas as financial services, insurance and other business services; and (e) disseminating as widely as possible important methodological developments in this rapidly evolving field. The work on services statistics will be carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, IMF and other interested regional and international organizations.

24.20 As part of the National Household Survey Capability Programme, a number of studies will be undertaken to assist countries in planning and implementing integrated programmes of household surveys. This series of publications will review issues and procedures in specific areas of household survey methodology and operations and in selected subject areas. Guidelines on international comparisons will be prepared, incorporating experience gained to date through the International Comparison Programme, especially from the regionalization of the programme and from product (value-added) inter-country comparisons.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. APPLYING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN COLLECTING, PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATING INTEGRATED STATISTICS

(a) Objectives

24.21 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions S-13/2, 44/116 (L), 44/169, and 44/171; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II), 23 (III), 1566 (L) and 1987/6.

24.22 The objectives of this subprogramme are: (a) to disseminate multisectorial statistics and indicators, periodically, at the international level, efficiently and effectively through recurrent publications containing general economic, demographic and social statistics; (b) to disseminate international statistics and indicators through media other than recurrent publications to meet a variety of users' needs and to respond to ad hoc requests for statistical information; and (c) to apply advanced technology in collecting, compiling, processing and disseminating international statistics, providing more efficient means of production and storage of statistics and access to statistical data bases.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

24.23 Improved data-processing techniques and advanced photo-composition technology will be used to improve the timeliness and contents of the regular general compendiums of statistics and other recurrent publications. It is anticipated that the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics will be substantially revised to ensure their continued relevance to users.

24.24 New data bases will be developed to meet new needs for multi-sectorial and integrated statistics and indicators. For example, data bases will be established to monitor the implementation of the new international development strategy and assess the achievement of social goals in the 1990s using nationally and internationally established quantitative targets. In addition, work on a data base on disarmament statistics will be initiated drawing on existing statistics and the methodologies and frameworks developed under subprogramme 1.

24.25 To compile, organize and disseminate statistics to meet the needs of a wide variety of users, new and improved technologies will be explored. Application of laser-printing technology will be expanded to produce appropriate publications in a more cost-effective manner. The possibility of using advanced technology for recording a large volume of data, such as optical disk technology, will be explored to make an entire publication or one or more detailed data bases available on a single disk so that data can be efficiently retrieved on microcomputers. Taking advantage of the availability of the low-cost, easy-to-use software packages for data storage, retrieval and manipulation, a wide range of statistics will be

disseminated on diskettes. Technologies now being used (for example, microfiche) will be reviewed to determine their continuing applicability.

24.26 Using new technology, provision will be made for the introduction of an ad hoc series of statistical publications, permitting the publication of additional useful sets of statistical data assembled by the Statistical Office on a variety of subjects which do not readily fit into the structure of existing recurrent statistical yearbooks and compendia.

24.27 To improve data collection from countries, the use of magnetic tapes and the introduction of diskettes will be encouraged, where possible, as media for reporting data. Data exchange with other international and regional statistical agencies will be improved through the increased use of on-line access to data bases. Efforts will be made to standardize data exchange formats.

24.28 The processing and storage of collected data will be improved by applying advanced programming techniques, data-base management and data access methodology appropriate to the different types of statistics. The scope and techniques of on-line access to the statistical data bases will be improved. Manuals on statistical data processing for use in countries, taking special account of the processing problems of developing countries, will be updated, reflecting the latest developments, and disseminated.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. COLLECTING, COMPILING AND DISSEMINATING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

(a) Objectives

24.29 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3362 (S-VII), 33/148, 44/169 and 44/171; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1854 B (LVII), 2024 (LXI) and 1979/72.

24.30 The objectives of this subprogramme are: to assist sound national and international policy formulation and decision-making by fostering the widespread availability and use by a wide range of national and international users of relevant, comprehensive, timely, reliable and comparable international statistics by collecting, compiling, evaluating and disseminating statistics and indicators on national accounts, industry, services, including international trade in services, energy, international trade, transport, prices, including comprehensive and comparable data on purchasing-power parities and real product, and demographic, social and environment statistics and indicators.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

24.31 The recurrent statistical publications and some non-recurrent statistical publications responding to current mandates will continue to be issued. Their structure and content will continue to be reviewed in the light of the increased capacity of certain types of users to make use of data disseminated in machine-readable form. In this connection, the general developments outlined in subprogramme 2 will be examined in the light of the particular needs in each subject-matter field. It is anticipated that the coverage, timeliness, reliability and comparability of official statistics provided by Member States will continue to improve in such fields as national accounts, international trade, industrial statistics, energy statistics and demographic and social statistics as a result of

the wider use of improved statistical methods promoted under subprogramme 1 and improved national capabilities of countries under subprogramme 5 on technical co-operation.

24.32 In national accounts the potential expansion of work will include additional data on institutional sector accounts, financial flows and balance sheets as a consequence of the reorientation of national accounts development, emphasizing integrated sectoral analysis instead of the traditional production accounts approach. Reoriented country data files, which include all official and estimated national accounts information for the national economy and for all institutional sectors, will be established for a large number of countries. Therefore, expanded series of integrated national accounts statistics covering government data, external transaction information and financial information will be available for international analysis. Attempts will also be made to promote co-ordination among international organizations regarding methods of estimation where national accounts statistics are not immediately available (see subprogramme 1). Country practices in compiling national accounts statistics will be analysed and evaluated to assess data reliability and conformity with international guidelines, in particular for the institutional sector accounts, and this information will be provided to users of national accounts data. The completion of the integrated national accounts framework data base will facilitate analysis of specific activities on the economy and therefore provide effective means to study the problems outlined under Programme 12, (Global development issues and policies). On the other hand, the analyses carried out under Programme 12 are helpful references for the Statistical Office in its design of the framework.

24.33 Countries will be offered assistance in their transition to the revised version of International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) in their reporting of all industrial data. Improvements in the coverage of inquiries and the quality and timeliness of data will be emphasized. The coverage of industrial commodity statistics will be modified, and expanded where feasible, to respond to structural changes in industry and to reflect new directions in industrial technology. Similarly, work on non-energy minerals will be expanded to take into account the global demand for raw materials and the need for information on a number of variables such as foreign trade, consumption, reserves and prices.

24.34 National and international developments and publications concerning industrial statistics and service statistics, including international trade in services and price and quantity indicators, will be monitored. With the expansion of national and international work in this area, the coverage of topics related to service statistics in existing publications will be expanded and new compilation and publication efforts in this important new field will be considered. Industrial statistics and related national accounts and trade statistics will continue to be provided to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in published and unpublished form.

24.35 Publications of international trade statistics, incorporating where possible international sea-borne trade, will continue to be issued annually. It is expected that developments in the collection and processing of international trade data will bring about greater international comparability and that national data will be available from a great majority of countries. In collaboration with the European Community and its member States, the special challenges posed by the single market for international trade statistics will be addressed. The international trade statistics computerized data base (COMTRADE) will be maintained as an essential

service to users including UNCTAD, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Bank, the European Community, OECD, and the regional commissions, as well as other units of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. Alternative forms of dissemination will be explored (see subprogramme 2).

24.36 The core data base on energy statistics will be further refined in response to a request by the user through seasonal and regional disaggregation of energy supply and demand, and will be complemented by information on special energy-related topics of immediate relevance to energy and development planners. Data collection will draw on a greater range of primary and secondary official sources and will be increasingly interconnected with activities of specialized agencies (for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization), and, where feasible, the regional commissions. Increased use will be made of existing mechanisms such as the decennial world programmes in industrial statistics and the National Household Survey Capability Programme. In addition, energy and energy-related data will be incorporated in software packages for data evaluation, review and analysis and general development planning.

24.37 Phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) will be carried out, using 1990 as a reference year, on a regional basis, and the Statistical Office will continue to be responsible for the co-ordination of the project and for any interregional (core) comparisons undertaken. An ICP handbook, containing both a theoretical description of the comparison method and practical instructions for the participating countries will be completed and published. Preparatory work for product-side (value added) comparisons will be initiated, and a first multilateral comparison is expected to be finalized by 1995.

24.38 The Demographic Yearbook and other printed products will continue to be issued. Other types of outputs responding to specific users requests will also be generated. The social statistics data bases will also be further developed using new technologies to incorporate the full range of social statistics available in the United Nations system and, where feasible, human settlements statistics. Small-scale automated data bases will be maintained, using microcomputer and related technologies and based on the primary data bases of the Statistical Office and other United Nations sources, in specialized fields of specific user interest, such as the homeless, the elderly and disabled persons and other special population groups, women, households and families, and crime and criminal justice. These will be used to generate special compilations of statistics and indicators in response to specific user demands and to meet a wide variety of ad hoc requests effectively and efficiently on a continuous basis. The statistical outputs in demographic and social statistics both contribute to and draw on the work of the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the specialized agencies and other parts of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

24.39 Based on the initiatives taken by the regional commissions and specialized agencies, a global programme of collection and dissemination of environment statistics will be co-ordinated by the Statistical Office. Once a sufficient number of countries have established environment statistics programmes, international data collection will be gradually extended in line with improved data availability in both national statistical offices and international organizations. Drawing on the regional work, dissemination of environmental statistics at the global level will also be initiated.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. CO-ORDINATING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

(a) Objectives

24.40 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 238 A (III) and 2626 (XXV), paragraph 84; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II), 23 (III), 1106 (XLIV) and 1566 (L).

24.41 The objectives of this subprogramme are: to make it easier for Member States to use the international statistical recommendations and classifications of different international organizations; to reduce the statistical reporting burden of Member States; and to achieve an integrated system in the collection, processing and dissemination of international statistics by promoting the co-ordination of the international statistical system, including technical co-operation activities, providing statistical services required by intergovernmental bodies, units within the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies; and by serving as the focal point for the international statistical system.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

24.42 In order to promote overall statistical co-ordination, close working relations will be maintained with the regional commissions, specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and national statistical services on such matters as questionnaires, data banks, data exchange and concepts, definitions and classifications. Co-ordination instruments such as the Directory of International Statistics and the Inventory of data collection activities issued by international organizations will be prepared in a computerized format to permit continued updating and ease of access.

24.43 The provision of statistical services will continue to organs of the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies on request, including the provision of data on national income, exchange rates, population, etc., to the Committee on Contributions. In carrying out this function, the Statistical Office draws on some of the outputs of Programme 12, (Global development issues and policies) and Programme 18 (Population). The Statistical Office will also continue to provide substantive services and statistical expertise to various other United Nations bodies and units of the Secretariat, such as the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In addition, substantive servicing of the Statistical Commission, its working group on International Statistics Programmes and Co-ordination and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities will continue.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION IN STATISTICS AND STATISTICAL DATA PROCESSING (DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT)

(a) Objectives

24.44 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 3362 (S-VII); and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1566 (L), 1903 (LVII), 1947 (LVIII), 2036 (LXI), 1989/3 and 1989/4.

24.45 The capabilities and outputs of the statistical services of many developing countries have continued to improve. Yet a number of developing countries are still unable to provide the data required by national decision makers and other users in terms of scope, detail, reliability or timeliness.

24.46 The objectives of this subprogramme are: to develop the statistics and statistical capabilities that developing countries need to plan, monitor and direct their economic and social development through the provision of direct advisory services, fellowships, supplies, equipment, statistical training, methodological materials and guidelines and the substantive support and monitoring of technical co-operation programmes and projects in statistics and statistical data processing. Another aim will be to help improve the stature and capabilities of national statistical offices by directing the attention of planners and policy makers to useful applications of statistics in developing effective socio-economic programmes and reaching policy decisions.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

24.47 The strategy will draw on the various related elements of the statistics programme and on the total know-how and experience available in the Statistical Office and the regional commissions. To assist developing countries in improving their statistical capacity and capability, advisory services will be provided and international experts will be posted on a long-term basis, and consultants, on a short-term basis, to transfer knowledge and experience in specific fields to local professionals in particular countries. Other forms of training will also be stressed. Individual country projects will continue to be evaluated in order to determine their effectiveness and the extent to which their objectives have been achieved. The national statistical services of developing countries will be encouraged to play a greater role in co-ordinating technical co-operation received in statistics. International and regional organizations will be encouraged to continue their arrangements for co-ordination in the context of and in support of such national co-ordination efforts.

24.48 Projects will also provide such necessary equipment as computer hardware and appropriate software programmes to enable the countries to process their data as near as possible to the period to which they refer and to facilitate the use of the data.

24.49 An increase in the number of country projects in various fields is expected during the plan period, particularly projects related to statistical organization in general, social and demographic statistics, national accounts and economic statistics, including international trade, industrial, energy and related statistics. With the completion of the revised SNA, there will be an increasing number of technical co-operation projects to help develop an integrated national accounts framework with the use of micro-computers, which will enable developing countries to adopt the framework to their analytical and policy making needs. There will also be activities connected with the conclusion of the 1990 round of population censuses, primarily census data processing, data base construction, census evaluation and other post-enumeration activities.

24.50 Countries will be assisted in implementing national household survey programmes aimed at obtaining integrated statistics on a regular basis on a wide range of social and socio-economic topics and at developing national instruments and skills for survey-taking. A major thrust of this activity will be to assist

interested developing countries to plan and implement national survey and data collection activities that will permit them to collect and compile data on nationally and internationally agreed-on quantitative targets to assess social goals in the 1990s. The Central Co-ordinating Unit of the National Household Survey Capability Programme will be gradually integrated into the ongoing technical co-operation programme in statistics.

24.51 In connection with the transfer of technical expertise, statistical classifications adapted to the needs of individual developing countries will be developed along with related instructional materials. In this connection, transfer of knowledge from one developing country to another developing country (technical co-operation among developing countries) will be emphasized.

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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 25. Global social issues and policies

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* The present document contains programme 25 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 25. GLOBAL SOCIAL ISSUES AND POLICIES

A. Programme

1. General orientation

25.1 Social issues and policies have been a preoccupation for the United Nations since its inception. The Charter of the United Nations provides the basic mandate for activities in this area, supplemented and made more specific in successive mandates emanating, inter alia, from General Assembly resolutions 2542 (XXIV), 32/197, 35/56, 37/54, 40/100, 42/125 and 44/57 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/8, 1983/22, 1985/21, 1985/26, 1985/29, 1987/47 and 1989/55.

25.2 The main thrust of the programme during the plan period will be to promote more effectively international awareness of trends and emerging problems, through data collection, research and policy analysis, and dissemination of information, to provide the basis for improved policy design and programme formulation and implementation in the social area.

25.3 During the 1980s, changes in demographic trends and patterns, in economic structure and employment levels, in technology and communications, and in the personal values and aspirations of different groups in the population have caused social issues to assume greater prominence and have challenged many earlier assumptions about the nature of social progress and the means to achieve it. They have called into question the capacity of existing institutions to meet new challenges and, above all, have brought about a deep and continuing debate on the appropriate role for government, including its relationship to other social agents, in managing change and promoting the well-being of populations.

25.4 Social phenomena that are transnational in character have increased in importance. It is now more widely recognized that many social problems stem from the same global trends or have similar characteristics in countries with different social systems or at different levels of economic development. With the rapid breakdown of barriers to the international movement of ideas, people, goods and capital, and therefore to the international transmission of problems, the need for more accurate analyses and assessments of global trends and better provision of detailed information about specific elements of change have assumed a new importance for policy-making at both the national and international levels. Such policy-making ideally aims to improve the well-being of all segments of society, in an institutional framework that provides equal opportunities for all to attain their individual and collective goals.

2. Overall strategy

25.5 The programme will be implemented by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna in its capacity as focal point within the United Nations system for issues related to developmental social welfare. It is closely related to, and provides input for, other programmes under Major Programme V, particularly, the integration of social groups, the advancement of women, and crime prevention and criminal justice, and contributes to the more specialized forms of action to be undertaken by those related programmes.

25.6 The analysis of emerging social issues will be carried out in order to assist intergovernmental and expert bodies, as well as Governments, to focus attention on key problems of international concern; to identify links between national, regional and international action; and to increase awareness of specific areas for international co-operation. Special attention will be directed to reinforcing research, analysis and substantive servicing capacities to respond to new intergovernmental mandates for action and to provide consistent and coherent support to both international and regional discussions of social policy options and strategies. Further, in response to the particular need for the strengthening of national capacities and institutions in developing countries, emphasis will be given to substantive support for technical co-operation activities.

25.7 The structure of the subprogramme reflects the importance Governments give to the timely analysis of emerging social issues. The intention is to identify emerging problems at an early stage and to disseminate information which may be of direct interest to Governments when they seek to formulate policy. Two important issues which have emerged in recent years are highlighted: First, the need to reorient social policy in general, and social welfare policy in particular, to the different socio-economic environments of the 1990s. That calls for greater emphasis, inter alia, on new forms of partnership between governmental and non-governmental agents, emphasis on participatory approaches to the delivery of services, more efficient management of public resources, closer international co-operation in social development activities, and greater emphasis on implementation of agreed international plans of action. The second issue of growing concern is the family. Rapid socio-economic change is perceived to have had ramifications in all parts of the world for the role and functioning of that basic social institution; the implications for public policy are not yet fully understood. Increased governmental interest is reflected in the decision taken by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (General Assembly resolution 44/82) to proclaim 1994 as the International Year of the Family, and its call for the preparation of a programme of activities related to the family.

25.8 The programme is closely related to the programme on global development issues and policies implemented by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA). The relationship is reflected in a number of projected joint activities, particularly in the context of the implementation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. Co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions and the United Nations Development Programme will also be maintained, as well as with other entities of the United Nations system, inter alia, through the established mechanisms of inter-agency co-operation.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

25.9 The programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

(a) Subprogramme 1: Analysis of emerging social issues

(b) Subprogramme 2: Social policy design, planning and co-ordination

(c) Subprogramme 3: Families in the development process

25.10 Subprogramme 1 has been designated high priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. ANALYSIS OF EMERGING SOCIAL ISSUES

(a) Objectives

25.11 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is derived from General Assembly resolutions 40/100, 42/125, 44/56 and 44/57; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/55 and 1989/72.

25.12 Rapid change and the complexity of modern societies require accurate and timely information and accurate syntheses of trends and developments at the global and regional levels. Policy-making in the social area is hampered by lack of up-to-date information and access to research findings, which remain compartmentalized and are not sufficiently disseminated internationally.

25.13 The objective of the subprogramme, therefore, is to assist Governments to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to emerging needs and problems by providing appropriate information and analysis in a readily usable and systematic way.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

25.14 The main thrust will be to tune more effectively the analysis of emerging social issues to the needs of policy makers in both intergovernmental bodies and at the national and local levels. Information on particular issues will be made available in the form of reports, surveys, technical publications and bulletins. A systematic effort will be made to review periodically the specific needs of users of the information, both governmental and non-governmental, and analyses will be prepared regularly for dissemination.

25.15 Because of the close interaction among economic and social phenomena, relevant social issues will be examined in their economic context, with the social implications of economic trends and policies highlighted. Special attention will be given to social dimensions of structural adjustment and economic reform programmes.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. SOCIAL POLICY DESIGN, PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION

(a) Objectives

25.16 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is derived from General Assembly resolutions 42/125 and 44/66; and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/55 and 1989/71.

25.17 There are the many social issues and problems that derive from the very rapid pace of societal change in all aspects of life: social policies and responses need constantly to adapt to new situations. In addition, the widespread and persistent problems of deprivation, lack of opportunity and limited social provisions in many parts of the world pose a continuing challenge and require, in particular, that attention be given to measures which strengthen countries' capacities to deal with those challenges.

25.18 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To support the implementation of recommendations contained in the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future; 1/

(b) To support implementation of social components of the international development strategy and other measures to strengthen human resources and reduce progressively the incidence of extreme poverty;

(c) To strengthen national and local capacity for social policy formulation, design and implementation.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

25.19 Implementation of the aims and objectives of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future and those of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade will be supported through the dissemination of research findings, particularly regarding innovative approaches in social welfare; research and policy analysis; the preparation of handbooks on selected specific areas of topical interest to policy makers; and support for operational activities to strengthen countries' capacities in social policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. FAMILIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

(a) Objectives

25.20 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is derived from General Assembly resolution 44/82 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/42.

25.21 The widespread lack of shared concepts, indicators and statistical data on families, especially in developing countries, does not permit a clear understanding of emerging trends and issues that affect families. Major demographic, economic and social changes have affected both the family as an institution and family members as individuals. In that context, Governments have expressed their concern to strengthen the family as a basic unit of society. This requires an understanding of the problems and the current and future role of the family as an institution, and also calls for an examination of national experience with family policy.

25.22 The general objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To develop and refine concepts and indicators concerning the social situation of families, in order to strengthen the ability of Member States to gather data about trends in family formulation, structure and dissolution; relevant data should also refer to important family functions, especially support functions;

(b) To provide a firm basis for the elaboration of policies and programmes, including systematic and integrated approaches to the design, implementation and evaluation of policies for families.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

25.23 Activities will focus on preparations for the International Year of the Family (1994), on its observance and on suitable follow-up in the context of decisions taken as part of the observance. In particular, seminars and expert meetings will be convened to examine specific problems and to develop new approaches for strengthening the family; technical publications will be produced to promote among Governments a wider understanding of available approaches to gathering and analysing data on families; information about policies and programmes related to families and their members will be analysed and discussed, giving particular attention to methods by which they may promote greater equality between women and men; integrated strategies for families and their members will be evaluated; the capacity to respond to requests for technical co-operation activities on family issues will be developed; and a network of support for family studies and activities undertaken by governmental and other agencies and organizations will be generated.

Notes

1/ See E/CONF.80/10, chap. III.

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MAJOR PROGRAMME V. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 26. Integration of social groups

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* The present document contains programme 26 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

PROGRAMME 26. INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL GROUPS

A. Programme

(1) General orientation

26.1 The United Nations has been concerned with issues related to social groups since its inception. The concerns have assumed prominence in connection with major international events during the first half of the 1980s. Those events included the observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981, the World Assembly on Aging in 1982 and the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace in 1985.

26.2 Each of those events culminated in the adoption of the following major international instruments:

(a) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, para. 99, recommendation 1 (IV)), adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 37/52;

(b) International Plan of Action on Aging, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 37/51; 1/

(c) Guidelines for Further Planning and Suitable Follow-up in the Field of Youth (A/40/256, annex, para. 52, decision 1 (IV), annex) endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 40/14.

Those three instruments provide the basic policy framework within which the international community has agreed to act on issues related to specific social groups.

26.3 The basic objective of the programme is human development to ensure the continuous improvement in well-being and the full and effective participation of social groups.

26.4 With its basic objective of human development, the programme responds to an observed need for systematic analysis and formulation of policy options concerning the improved well-being of specific population groups. It introduces entitlements and capabilities of specific social groups as the analytical tools for achieving real improvement in their well-being and their full and effective participation on the basis of equality in development.

(2) Overall strategy

26.5 The programme on integration of social groups will be implemented by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna in its capacity as focal point within the United Nations system for issues related to youth, aging and disabled persons. It carries out its tasks through three sets of activities:

(a) Promoting greater awareness and understanding of international instruments related to specific social groups;

(b) Preparing and monitoring periodic evaluations of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in the implementation of those instruments;

(c) Providing substantive services to both intergovernmental and technical forums for comprehensive exchanges of knowledge and experience.

26.6 The Centre will seek to create increased international awareness and support for national, regional and international efforts to fulfil human needs and aspirations and to integrate all members of society in mainstream development. To that end, it will promote and co-ordinate applied research on critical issues and emerging trends for purposes of improved policy design, programme formulation and evaluation. Needs and priorities related to the integration of social groups that have been identified will be addressed through technical publications, the design and organization of training of national personnel, and provision, upon request, of advice and assistance in the establishment and development of national machineries.

26.7 Systematic and comprehensive monitoring and reporting of trends relating to global social groups will be carried out with a view to assisting Governments and intergovernmental and expert bodies to focus attention on emerging issues in this field by identifying links between national, regional and international action and by increasing awareness of specific areas for international co-operation. In response to the particular need for the strengthening and improvement of national capacities and institutions, substantive support for technical co-operation activities will be provided upon request.

26.8 This programme will be carried out in close co-operation with the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations.

(3) Subprogramme structure and priorities

26.9 With its basic objective of human development, this programme provides a framework for dealing with the social aspects of the global development agenda and will comprise the following three subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Integration of youth in development;

Subprogramme 2: Integration of the aging in development;

Subprogramme 3: Integration of disabled persons in development.

26.10 Those subprogrammes will focus on the various needs and responsibilities of the three groups to ensure their continuous improvement in well-being and their full and effective participation in the development process. Consequently, no priority designation is proposed among those subprogrammes.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. INTEGRATION OF YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

26.11 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is derived from the "Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth" as endorsed by the General Assembly in resolutions 40/14, paragraphs 1 and 7; 40/17, paragraph 2; 41/97, paragraphs 4 and 5; 41/99, paragraphs 2 and 3; 42/54, paragraph 3; 42/55, paragraphs 2 and 3; 43/94, paragraphs 2, 4, 5 and 13; and 44/59, paragraphs 3, 5, 6, 12, 15 and 16; and by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1986/13, paragraphs 4 and 5; 1987/45, paragraph 4; 1987/51, paragraph 4; and 1989/51, paragraphs 5 and 8.

26.12 The youth population is expected to increase by 60 per cent world-wide by the year 2000 and by 80 per cent in the less developed regions of the globe. Many of the major problems affecting young people can be traced to the continuous growth of the youth population without responsive policies and programmes. Planning for youth, however, is still not an integral component of national development planning. It is hampered by insufficient inter-institutional co-ordination, lack of basic data and research, limited financial resources for development activities and lack of trained personnel.

26.13 In view of the above, the objectives of this subprogramme are specifically to assist Governments in:

(a) Formulating policies, strategies and programmes relating to youth in order to have them become an integral component of social and economic development;

(b) Promoting greater awareness and understanding on the part of decision makers and the general public of the situation and needs of youth;

(c) Improving and strengthening national capacities in order to respond effectively and efficiently to emerging youth issues and concerns.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

26.14 The tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year (IYY) will occur in 1995, when it is expected that a concerted programme of action on youth to the year 2000 and beyond will be adopted.

26.15 In connection with that anniversary, a review of the implementation of the "Guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth" will be carried out, and the survey of the global situation of youth will be updated. Networks of national co-ordinating mechanisms on youth, centres and institutes engaged in youth research and youth-related non-governmental organizations will be developed and expanded. Inter-agency collaboration in the field of youth will be expanded with a view to strengthening national capacities, enhancing operational programmes at the country level and ensuring complementary efforts in pursuit of the objectives of the IYY. Assistance to national mechanisms on youth will be provided through technical support and policy guidance and the organization of expert meetings.

26.16 In addition, a global documentation and information service will be established in co-operation with concerned organizations and institutions. Both research and information notes and bulletins will be issued. Practical methods and procedures for multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral research in the field of youth will be developed and international exchange and co-operation in the field of youth research will be facilitated. Channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations will be reinforced.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. INTEGRATION OF THE AGING IN DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

26.17 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is derived from the International Plan of Action on Aging, 1/ endorsed by the General Assembly in resolutions 37/51; 38/51, paragraphs 2, 5, 6 and 7; 39/25, paragraphs 4, 6 and 9; 40/29, paragraph 4; 40/30; 41/96, paragraphs 5 to 8; 42/51, paragraphs 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12; 43/93, paragraphs 5 to 9; and 44/67, paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16; and by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1983/21, paragraphs 2 to 4; 1985/28, paragraphs 4 and 6; and 1989/50, paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 16.

26.18 By the year 2025, the global population will have gone through a demographic transition. The elderly world-wide will number over 1 billion persons and will constitute about 15 per cent of the whole. Over 70 per cent of those elderly persons will be living in the developing regions of the world. It is imperative, therefore, that policies and programmes be set in place now by Member States to shoulder the impact of the aging of their populations.

26.19 With that in mind, the objective of this subprogramme will be:

(a) To promote full and effective participation of the elderly in all aspects of development;

(b) To formulate integrated policies, strategies and programmes based on comprehensive analyses of the impact of development on aging and the impact of the elderly on development;

(c) To strengthen and improve national capacities in order to respond effectively and efficiently to the aging of populations;

(d) To promote and co-ordinate joint inter-agency action on aging and development.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

26.20 With the tenth anniversary of the 1982 World Assembly on Aging occurring in 1992, it is expected that a concerted programme of action on aging and development to the year 2000 and beyond will be adopted. Two quadrennial reviews of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging will be carried out in 1992 and 1996, and the second up-date of the world aging survey will take place in 1996.

26.21 In addition, assistance to develop and expand networks of national machineries on aging, centres and institutions for training and research and non-governmental organizations will be provided through technical support and

advice with the organization of expert meetings at national, regional and interregional levels.

26.22 A global documentation and information service will be established in co-operation with concerned centres and institutions, practical methods and procedures for cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary research on aging and development will be devised and comparative research studies on aging and development will be carried out.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PERSONS IN DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

26.23 The legislative authority for this subprogramme is derived from the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolutions 37/52; 37/53, paragraphs 4 to 7, 9 and 10; 38/28, paragraphs 2, 5 and 8; 39/26, paragraphs 6, 7, and 12; 40/31, paragraphs 6 and 11; 41/104, paragraph 2; 42/58, paragraphs 4, 7, 9 and 18; 42/98, paragraphs 6 to 9, 12, 13 and 17; and 44/70, paragraphs 6 to 11, 15, 18 and 19; and by the Economic and Social Council in resolutions 1985/35, paragraphs 2 to 6; 1986/16, paragraphs 4 and 5; 1987/43, paragraphs 3, 6 and 7; and 1989/52, paragraphs 3 to 6, 9 and 10.

26.24 Because of important structural demographic changes, increased industrialization and urbanization in developing countries, armed conflicts and increased environmental problems, disability will not be the problem of only one particular group, but will cut across all groups. By the year 2000, the number of disabled persons is projected to increase dramatically in some countries, far above the current estimate of 10 per cent.

26.25 It is, therefore, necessary that Member States take steps now to develop and expand innovative approaches for the prevention of disabilities, provision of rehabilitation and support services, and equalization of opportunities for people with disabilities. This requires the integration of the needs and concerns of disabled persons into national development planning.

26.26 In view of the above, the objectives of this subprogramme are the following:

(a) To promote effective measures for the prevention of disability, rehabilitation, and the realization of the goals of "full participation" of disabled persons in social and development and or "equality", meaning equalization of opportunities;

(b) To monitor and evaluate efforts to meet the needs of people with sensory, physical or mental disabilities and to integrate activities regarding those needs and concerns into national development planning and policies;

(c) To strengthen and improve national capacities and those of organizations for disabled persons, in order to enable them to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of disabled persons.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

26.27 With the second quinquennial evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, to be undertaken in

1992, within the framework of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, the international community will mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons; at that time, it is also expected to adopt a new strategy to the year 2000 and beyond. The third quinquennial review of the implementation of the World Programme of Action will be carried out in 1997. In both of those reviews, national level involvement will be emphasized.

26.28 With the collaboration of interested organizations and agencies, within and outside the United Nations system, international co-operation on the revision of the World Health Organization publication entitled International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps: Manual of Classification Relating to the Consequences of Disease will be strengthened. The early revision of that Manual will have a major impact on the evaluation of the needs of disabled persons and the planning for suitable programmes and activities.

26.29 The partnerships with Governments, national co-ordinating committees and non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons, will be further developed by the Secretariat through international expert meetings, seminars, workshops, consultation meetings, training programmes and advisory services. That will promote an expanded exchange of views and experiences and develop new strategies to promote the equalization of opportunities of disabled people.

26.30 A global information network of computerized collections of information to facilitate the dissemination of relevant knowledge and experiences will be established and made operational by the end of the plan period. Public information and awareness programmes will also be designed and disseminated.

26.31 Standards are expected to be set through the elaboration of a proposed international instrument on the rights of disabled persons to create legally-binding rules and effective measures in keeping with the World Programme of Action. Other enforcement mechanisms related to legal and human rights issues will also be developed.

26.32 Advisory services on policy-formulation, planning, implementation and programme management, as requested, will continue to be an essential tool in technical co-operation activities to promote the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

Notes

1/ See Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.